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gospels has given an admirable summary of the present status of the synoptic problem, and presents his own view with his usual frankness. It is clear that, as he says, the commentary is a labor of love, but at the same time it also is clear that, far more than Professor Dods, he suffers from the limitation put upon him by the nature of the book. In many particulars his commentary is very satisfactory. It is flowing and illuminating, but, at the same time, Professor Bruce is not preëminently an exegete, and his notes are commentary rather than a succession of careful studies upon the words and thought of the gospels.

While we thus admit the existence of weak points in this work, it is by no means to be inferred that it is not to be of service to ministers who wish to use the Greek text, and who do not care at the same time to plunge into discussions; who want results rather than processes. It was the mission of Alford, and doubtless will be that of the present work, to furnish such a link between the Greek Testament and scientific commentaries. Whether, as a whole, it will quite rank with Alford remains to be seen, but, in the meantime, it is satisfactory to have in such compass the opinions of Professors Bruce and Dods upon the words of our Lord.

A word of regret may perhaps be allowed that the publishers, who have furnished the reader such a beautiful page, should allow the binder to give the book such a gaudy cover. S. M.

A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Epistles to the Ephesians and to the Colossians. By REV. T. K. ABBOTT, B.D., D.LITT., formerly Professor of Biblical Greek, now of Hebrew, Trinity College, Dublin. ["The International Critical Commentary."] New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons, 1897. Pp. lxv+315. $2.50.

Five volumes have now appeared upon books of the New Testament in "The International Critical Commentary Series," so that we have become accustomed to the general characteristics of this important set of works. It has become understood that no minister should rest content until he has these new commentaries at his elbow; there are few books which can be as highly recommended. And many a Bible student, without a theological training but with a desire for knowledge that will lead him through the heavier professional literature, will glean rich harvests from the study of these technical volumes.

We have not lacked for commentaries on the Ephesian and Colossian epistles, but a commentary of the kind which Dr. Abbott has given us we certainly have not had, and were in need of. It is primarily philological. Its aim is to ascertain with as great precision as possible, first, what the text of the two epistles is, and, secondly, what is the actual meaning of the writer's language. A great deal of space is, therefore, given to the discussion and explication of the textual readings and evidence. The author uses as a basal Greek text that which underlies the Revised Version, but departs from this at points where his own study and judgment lead him to different conclusions. Dr. Abbott speaks with especial authority on matters connected with the text, for that field has attracted his most careful and prolonged attention.

A wealth of material is introduced to illumine the apostle's meaning in these writings. Greek words which occur here are treated at length with reference to their use in classical or extra-biblical Greek, and their use in the Septuagint and other New Testament literature. Great praise is due the author for the work which he has put upon this feature of the commentary. It is only by such investigation that exact interpretation can be secured.

The previously written commentaries which Dr. Abbott has found most useful are the ancient ones by Chrysostom and Theodore of Mopsuestia, and the modern ones by Alford, Barry, DeWette, Eadie, Ellicott, Meyer (W. Schmidt), Moule, von Soden, and the Bible (Speaker's) Commentary; also, for Ephesians, Harless, Stier, and Macpherson ; and, for Colossians, Lightfoot. The interpretation of these various commentators is constantly cited, so that these great works are in a way presented with Dr. Abbott's own to the reader. The great theological questions which arise from these writings of Paul are briefly but ably treated from an exegetical standpoint, and the historical questions are given full consideration in an introduction of great excellence. The genuineness of both letters is with great care defended, and their relations to other New Testament books discussed. The epistle to the Ephesians (so-called) he holds, with the great majority of scholars at the present time, to be a "circular" letter to churches of Asia Minor, of which the church at Ephesus was the chief one, and that because of this fact the letter at a subsequent time bore the Ephesian superscription. Rome is the place from which Dr. Abbott thinks the epistles were written, and the time was that of Paul's first imprisonment, about 63 A. D.

We are indebted to Dr. Abbott for a thorough reinvestigation of all the problems which surround these epistles, and welcome his confirmation of the conservative views of the epistles which are now again becoming established. C. W. V.

The Early Life of Our Lord. By J. BROUGH, Chaplain to the Forces. New York: E. T. Dutton & Co., 1897. Pp. 7+261. $1.75.

The writer of this volume has done students of the New Testament no inconsiderable service. We have had books in some number dealing with the same matter, like that of Stapfer, *Jesus Christ before his Ministry*, to say nothing of homiletical books handling the same subject. None of these, however, has been quite so serviceable as the present. Of course, all books treating of the early life of Jesus are exposed to the danger of reading into his life customs and events from earlier or later times, and the present author has not altogether escaped criticism on this score, but on the whole the volume is well done. The writer's knowledge of Jewish customs is considerable, and he has fallen neither into the error of thinking that the course of the life of Jesus was altogether conventional, nor into that of assuming that it was altogether miraculous. We commend this book to those who wish a knowledge of the probable life of Jesus during his boyhood.

S. M.

Einführung in das Griechische Neue Testament. Von EBERHARD NESTLE. Mit 8 Handschriften-Tafeln. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck and Ruprecht. Pp. 129, 8vo. M. 3.40.

Professor Nestle's little book, which professes to be a guide (*Einführung*) rather than an introduction (*Einleitung*), relates only to textual criticism. It consists of three chapters: (1) "The History of the Printed Text of the Greek Testament;" (2) "The Materials of New Testament Criticism:" (*a*) manuscripts, (*b*) versions, (*c*) citations; (3) "The Theory and Practice of New Testament Criticism." An appendix is added containing bibliographical hints and a few additional remarks.

The execution, as need hardly be said, is excellent. A very large amount of accurately stated information has been compressed into a small space without any noticeable loss of clearness or interest. Only those who have tried to condense matter of this kind can fully appre-